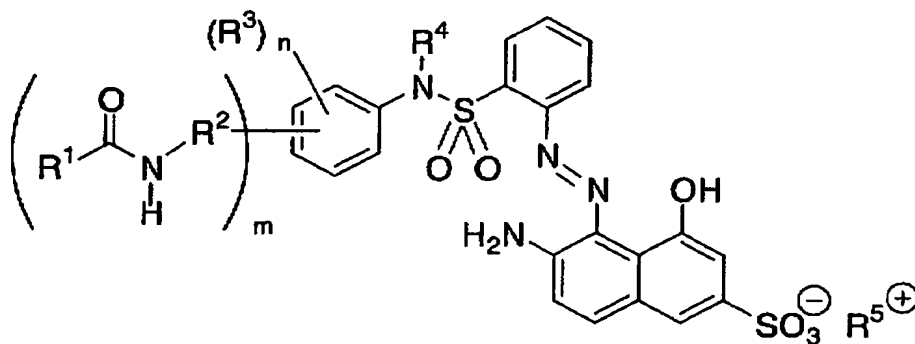


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An azo compound represented by the following general formula (I):

General formula (I)

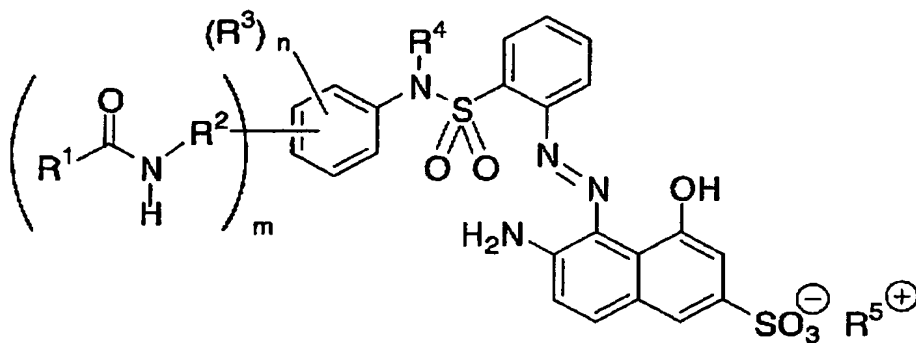


wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a C<sub>1-10</sub> perfluoroalkyl, a C<sub>2-21</sub> alkenyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aryl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkylamino, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkylamino, a C<sub>1-21</sub> arylamino, methacryloylamino, or ethoxycarbonylamino; R<sup>2</sup> represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>- or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-; R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a halogen, a hydroxyl, or a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkoxy; R<sup>4</sup> represents a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a C<sub>2-21</sub> alkenyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aryl, or a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkyl; R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen, a metal cation, or a cation of a nitrogen-containing compound; m denotes an integer of 1 or 2; and n denotes an integer from 0 to 4.

2. A colorant-containing curable composition

comprising: a binder and a colorant, wherein the colorant contains an azo compound represented by the following general formula (I):

General formula (I)



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a C<sub>1-10</sub> perfluoroalkyl, a C<sub>2-21</sub> alkenyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aryl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkylamino, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkylamino, a C<sub>1-21</sub> arylamino, methacryloylamino, or ethoxycarbonylamino; R<sup>2</sup> represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-; R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a halogen, a hydroxyl, or a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkoxy; R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen, a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a C<sub>2-21</sub> alkenyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aryl, or a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkyl; R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen, a metal cation, or a cation of a nitrogen-containing compound; m denotes an integer from 0 to 2; and n denotes an integer from 0 to 4.

3. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, wherein the binder contains an alkali-soluble

(meth)acrylic resin.

4. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, wherein the binder contains an alkali-soluble (meth)acrylic resin having a polymerizable side chain.

5. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, further comprising a (meth)acrylic ester type polymerizable compound.

6. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 5, wherein the polymerizable compound contains a tetra- or higher functional (meth)acrylic ester type monomer.

7. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, further comprising a photopolymerization initiator.

8. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 7, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound selected from the group consisting of trihalomethyltriazine compounds, benzyl dimethyl ketal compounds,  $\alpha$ -hydroxyketone compounds,  $\alpha$ -aminoketone compounds, phosphine oxide compounds, metallocene compounds, oxime compounds, triallylimidazole dimers, benzothiazole type compounds, benzophenone compounds, acetophenone compounds and

derivatives thereof, cyclopentadiene-benzene-iron complexes and salts thereof, halomethyloxadiazole compounds, and 3-aryl-substituted cumarin compounds.

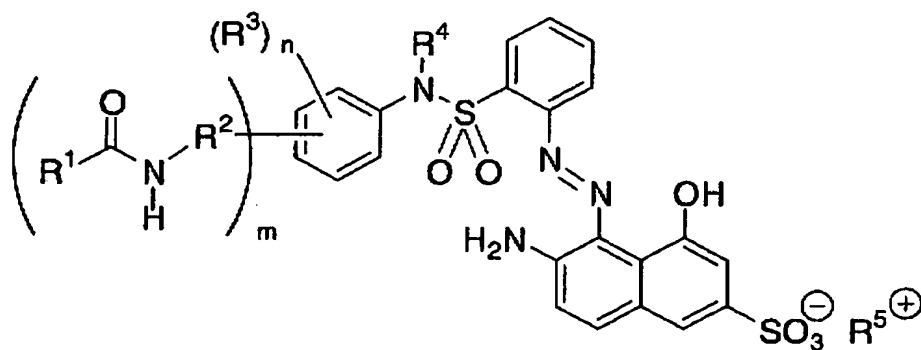
9. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 7, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound that generates no acid due to decomposition.

10. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 7, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ -aminoketone compounds, phosphine oxide compounds, metallocene compounds, oxime compounds, and triallylimidazole dimers.

11. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, further comprising a cross-linking agent.

12. A color filter comprising a colorant-containing curable composition comprising: a binder and a colorant, wherein the colorant contains an azo compound represented by the following general formula (I):

General formula (I)



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a C<sub>1-10</sub> perfluoroalkyl, a C<sub>2-21</sub> alkenyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aryl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkylamino, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkylamino, a C<sub>1-21</sub> arylamino, methacryloylamino, or ethoxycarbonylamino; R<sup>2</sup> represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-; R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a halogen, a hydroxyl, or a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkoxy; R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen, a C<sub>1-21</sub> alkyl, a C<sub>2-21</sub> alkenyl, a C<sub>1-21</sub> aryl, or a C<sub>1-21</sub> aralkyl; R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen, a metal cation, or a cation of a nitrogen-containing compound; m denotes an integer from 0 to 2; and n denotes an integer from 0 to 4.

13. A color filter according to claim 12, wherein the binder contains an alkali-soluble (meth)acrylic resin.

14. A color filter according to claim 12, wherein the binder contains an alkali-soluble (meth)acrylic resin having a polymerizable side chain.

15. A color filter according to claim 12, wherein the colorant-containing curable composition further comprises a (meth)acrylic ester type polymerizable compound.

16. A color filter according to claim 15, wherein the polymerizable compound contains a tetra- or higher functional (meth)acrylic ester type monomer.

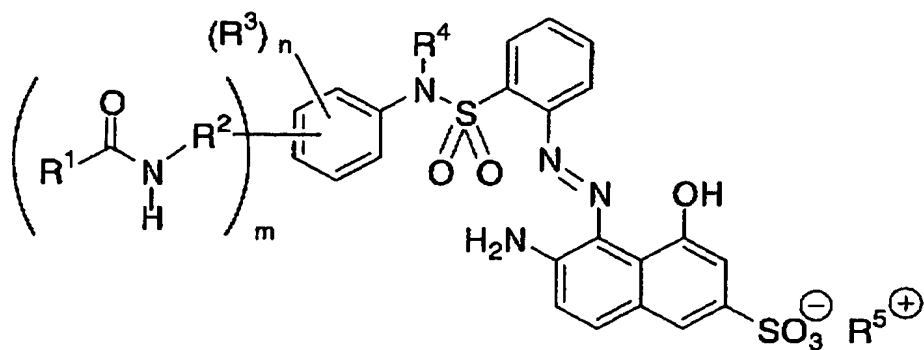
17. A color filter production method comprising:  
providing a colorant-containing curable composition that includes a binder and a colorant, wherein the colorant includes an azo compound represented by the following general formula (I),

applying the composition to a support;

exposing the composition through a mask; and

developing the exposed composition to form a pattern image,

General formula (I)



wherein,  $R^1$  represents a  $C_{1-21}$  alkyl, a  $C_{1-10}$  perfluoroalkyl, a  $C_{2-21}$  alkenyl, a  $C_{1-21}$  aryl, a  $C_{1-21}$  aralkyl, a  $C_{1-21}$  alkylamino, a  $C_{1-21}$  aralkylamino, a  $C_{1-21}$  arylamino, methacryloylamino, or ethoxycarbonylamino;  $R^2$  represents a single bond,  $-CH_2-$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$ , or  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$ ;  $R^3$  represents hydrogen, a  $C_{1-21}$  alkyl, a halogen, a hydroxyl, or a  $C_{1-21}$  alkoxy;  $R^4$  represents hydrogen, a  $C_{1-21}$  alkyl, a  $C_{2-21}$  alkenyl, a  $C_{1-21}$  aryl, or a  $C_{1-21}$  aralkyl;  $R^5$  represents hydrogen, a metal cation, or a cation of a nitrogen-containing compound;  $m$  denotes an integer from 0 to 2; and  $n$  denotes an integer from 0 to 4.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the colorant-containing curable composition further comprises a photopolymerization initiator.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound selected from the group consisting of trihalomethyltriazine

compounds, benzyl dimethyl ketal compounds,  $\alpha$ -hydroxyketone compounds,  $\alpha$ -aminoketone compounds, phosphine oxide compounds, metallocene compounds, oxime compounds, triallylimidazole dimers, benzothiazole type compounds, benzophenone compounds, acetophenone compounds and derivatives thereof, cyclopentadiene-benzene-iron complexes and salts thereof, halomethyloxadiazole compounds, and 3-aryl-substituted cumarin compounds.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound that generates no acid due to decomposition.